

CLAIM LISTING

1. (Currently Amended) A method of capturing insects, comprising:

(a) providing an elongated housing having an effective length and a sidewall which extends between an upstream end and a downstream end to substantially surround a housing interior, said housing constructed to permit airflow between said upstream end and said downstream end, while impeding passage of insects therebetween;

(b) providing a movable closure at an upstream end portion of said housing, with said movable closure being biased into a closed position hindering access to the housing interior through said upstream end;

(c) evacuating air from said housing, while retaining the movable closure in the closed position, thereby to establish a potential vacuum source within the housing interior;

(d) placing said movable closure proximate to a target insect; and

(e) ~~while maintaining the effective length of said housing~~, creating air pressure within the upstream end portion of said housing that is less than ambient pressure at the upstream end whereby ambient air is drawn into the housing interior at a sufficient flow to cause said movable closure to move into an open position thereby to create an entryway into the upstream region from the upstream end and to draw the insect into the upstream region to be trapped therein when the movable closure returns to the closed position.

2. (Original) A method according to claim 1 including providing a compression chamber at a downstream end portion of said housing, and

whereby the step of evacuating air from said housing is accomplished by compressing said compression chamber into a compressed position.

3. (Original) A method according to claim 2 whereby creation of air pressure within the upstream end portion of said housing that is less than ambient pressure is accomplished by returning said compression chamber to an uncompressed position.

4. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 2 including resiliently biasing said compression chamber into the—an uncompressed position.

5. (Original) A method according to claim 2 including mechanically maintaining said compression chamber in the compressed position.

6. (Original) A method according to claim 1 whereby evacuation of air from the housing is accomplished before the movable closure is placed proximate to the target insect.

7. (Previously Presented) A method of capturing insects, comprising:

(a) providing an elongated housing having a sidewall which substantially surrounds a housing interior and which is partitioned into an upstream region and a downstream region, whereby airflow is permitted between said upstream and downstream regions while passage of insects therebetween is impeded;

(b) providing a movable closure at an upstream end portion of said housing, with said movable closure being biased into a closed position to hinder access to said upstream region from said upstream end;

(c) providing a compression chamber at a downstream end portion of said housing;

(d) evacuating air through said sidewall at the downstream region of said housing by compressing said compression chamber into a compressed position, thereby to establish a potential vacuum source within the housing interior;

(e) placing said movable closure proximate to a target insect; and

(f) creating air pressure within the upstream region of the housing interior that is less than ambient pressure at the upstream end, whereby ambient air is drawn into the housing interior at a sufficient flow to cause said movable closure to move into an open position, thereby to create an entryway into the upstream region from the upstream end and to draw the insect into the upstream region to be trapped therein when the movable closure returns to the closed position.

8. (Previously Canceled).

9. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 7 whereby creation of air pressure within the upstream region of said housing that is less than ambient pressure is accomplished by returning said compression chamber to an uncompressed position.

10. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 7 including resiliently biasing said compression chamber into the uncompressed position.

11. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 7 including mechanically maintaining said compression chamber in the compressed position.

12. (Original) A method according to claim 7 whereby evacuation of air from the housing is accomplished before the movable closure is placed proximate to the target insect.

13. (New) A method according to claim 1 whereby the effective length of said housing is maintained during step (e).

14. (New) A method according to claim 1 whereby said movable closure is mechanically retained in the closed position during evacuation of air from said housing.

15. (New) A method according to claim 1 whereby said movable closure is restricted from moving outwardly in an upstream direction, yet is adapted to move inwardly in a downstream direction as it moves into the open position.

16. (New) A method according to claim 1 whereby the air is evacuated through a downstream region of said housing.

17. (New) A method according to claim 16 whereby the air is only evacuated through said downstream region.

18. (New) A method according to claim 1 comprising permitting unconstrained movement of the insect within the upstream region after capture.

19. (New) A method according to claim 18 comprising releasing the insect into ambient air after capture.

20. (New) A method according to claim 1 comprising releasing the insect into ambient air after capture.

21. (New) A method according to claim 1 wherein said upstream end portion includes a removable collection tube, and comprising removing said collection tube and releasing the insect into ambient air after capture.

22. (New) A method according to claim 2 comprising restricting evacuation of the air through the upstream end of said housing during compression of said compression chamber.

23. (New) A method according to claim 5 whereby said compression chamber is maintained in the compressed position by mechanically coupling it to a triggering assembly to define an engaged state for the triggering assembly.

24. A method according to claim 7 whereby the air is only evacuated through said downstream region.

25. (New) A method according to claim 7 whereby said movable closure remains in the closed position during evacuation of the air through said sidewall.

26. (New) A method according to claim 25 whereby said movable closure is retained in the closed position during evacuation of the air through said sidewall.

27. (New) A method according to claim 26 whereby said movable closure is mechanically retained in the closed position during evacuation of air from said housing.

28. (New) A method according to claim 7 whereby said movable closure is restricted from moving outwardly in an upstream direction, yet is adapted to move inwardly in a downstream direction as it moves into the open position.

29. (New) A method according to claim 7 comprising permitting unconstrained movement of the insect within the upstream region after capture.

30. (New) A method according to claim 29 comprising releasing the insect into ambient air after capture.

31. (New) A method according to claim 7 comprising releasing the insect into ambient air after capture.

32. (New) A method according to claim 7 wherein said upstream end portion includes a removable collection tube for trapping the insect, and comprising removing said collection tube and releasing said insect into ambient air after capture.

33. (New) A method according to claim 11 whereby said compression chamber is maintained in the compressed position by mechanically coupling it to a triggering assembly to define an engaged state for the triggering assembly.